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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALYAKSANDR SYCHOV,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 April 2011

**On the terrorist attack in Minsk**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Colleagues,

The day before yesterday, 11 April 2011, a truly tragic event occurred in the city of Minsk, the likes of which have never before taken place in the history of modern-day Belarus.

As a result of the terrorist act in the Minsk metro, 12 people were killed and around 200 injured, 40 of them seriously, and today doctors are fighting to save their lives.

Following this act, the President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, called an emergency meeting with representatives from all the national security services in Belarus and instructed them to provide the necessary aid to victims and to investigate what happened. He has taken personal responsibility for the investigations.

According to the preliminary findings of the investigators and experts, a home-made explosive device filled with ball bearings, nuts and bolts, nails and other metal objects was placed under a bench on the platform of Oktyabrskaya metro station and detonated during the rush hour (5.58 p.m. Minsk time) when there were some 300 people in the station. The explosion was equivalent to 5 to 7 kg of TNT.

The law enforcement authorities in Belarus are currently doing everything possible to identify the reasons for the act and to search for the persons who committed this inhuman crime. Three persons have already been detained in connection with it and an identikit picture has been formed of the suspect who is thought to have been its direct instigator.

Today, 13 April 2011, has been designated as a day of mourning in Minsk.

We should like to express our sincere thanks to all of those who have expressed words of condolence and support to Belarus, the Belarusian people, the leaders of the Republic of Belarus and the families of the dead and injured. We are particularly grateful to the

Russian Federation and other countries that have offered assistance in the investigation of the act and specialist medical aid to the victims. This solidarity and assistance is highly appreciated.

Without a doubt, this barbaric crime has shocked the entire Belarusian nation. Innocent people were killed. The investigation still has to establish the causes of this act of terrorism but we are confident that the terrorists will not succeed in their ostensible aims of spreading fear and panic, dividing Belarusian society and undermining the stability of the State. On the contrary, the incident has united the people of Belarus even more, and terrorism and terrorists will be given the tough response that they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.